

REMARKS

Request for Continued Examination

This paper is entered together with a Request for Continued Examination, and is tendered as the submission required to be presented therewith pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Interview

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for the in-person interview conducted by the Examiner with Applicant's representative in the Examiner's office on January 17, 2009. The Examiner and Applicant's representative reviewed prior art cited in the August 7, 2006 Office Action, and agreed that the amendments entered herein were sufficient to clearly distinguish over that art. The Examiner and Applicant's representative further agreed that an additional search might be required in view of the fact of the amendment.

Amendments

Amendments to the claims are made to more clearly distinguish the claims over the prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims were sufficiently distinguished in their prior form, and enters the amendments without prejudice, in the interest of expediting allowance of the claims, and in order to address concerns stated by the Examiner with respect to 35 USC § 112.

No new matter is added by the amendments. Support for the amendments is found in throughout the specification, and in the claims as originally filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

At paragraph 2 of the detailed action the Examiner has rejected claims 91 - 93 under 36 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the

invention. Applicant respectfully submits that amendment of the claims has addressed the Examiner's concern and mooted the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

As noted above, in an interview conducted by the Examiner with Applicant's representative in the Examiner's office on January 17, 2009, the Examiner and Applicant's representative reviewed prior art cited in the August 7, 2006 Office Action, and agreed that the amendments entered herein were sufficient to clearly distinguish over that art.

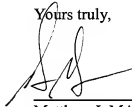
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are both novel and not obvious over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that they have fully responded to the Examiner's concerns and that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and immediate allowance of the claims.

Applicants further request that any questions be directed to the undersigned.

Yours truly,



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